

# The Advisor

July 30, 2005

[www.mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil](http://www.mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil)

Official Weekly Command Information Report for the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq

## Iraqi Pride and Patriotism

Iraqi Security Forces'  
courage and confidence  
growing as they look to  
the future



July 30, 2005

# MNSTC-I

## Commanding General

U.S. Army  
Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus

## Command Sergeant Major

U.S. Marine Corps  
Sgt. Maj. Ralph G. White

## Public Affairs Officer

U.S. Army  
Lt. Col. Frederick Wellman

## Deputy Public Affairs Officers

U.S. Army  
Capt. Larry George

U.S. Army  
Capt. Tim Jeffers

## Operations NCO

U.S. Army  
Sgt. 1st Class Allen R. Thomas

## Editor

U.S. Army  
Sgt. Lorie Jewell

## CPATT Public Affairs Liaison

Ann Bertucci

The Advisor is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Defense Department and multinational partners.

*Contents of this paper are not necessarily the official views of the U.S. government, multinational partners or the U.S. Dept. of Defense. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq Public Affairs Office.*

Direct questions and comments to:  
pao@mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil

MNSTC-I PAO  
APO AE 09316  
DPN: 318-852-1334

To subscribe to The Advisor,  
visit us online at:  
www.mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil/advisor

**Cover:** A soldier from the 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division stationed at Camp Hawk, displays his country's flag with pride by wearing it on his helmet July 21.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Thomas Benoit

## Withdrawals could begin next year, Casey says

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq.— A "fairly substantial" withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq could take place next spring or summer if the insurgency doesn't grow and the country's political process continues as scheduled, the commander of coalition forces said here July 27.

U.S. Army Gen. George W. Casey, head of Multi-National Force - Iraq, spoke during a surprise visit to Iraq by U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

At a later joint news conference with Rumsfeld, Iraqi Prime Minister

Ibrahim Jaafari said the departure of U.S. forces from his country depends on how soon Iraq can train, equip and field its own soldiers and police to take over security duties. "We do not want to be surprised," Jaafari said, if U.S. troops leave before the Iraqis are prepared to assume security.

Rumsfeld arrived in Baghdad today after visits to the Central Asian nations of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. He met with senior U.S. and Iraqi military and civilian officials in the International Zone, formerly called the "Green Zone." He first conducted an update meeting with Casey and U.S. Army Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, commander of Multi-National Corps - Iraq, and U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq.

Casey commented on the potential for withdrawing U.S. forces from Iraq during a joint news conference with Rumsfeld and new U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad. The general said the insurgency in Iraq hasn't substantially increased within the past year.

"The insurgents need to progress to survive, and this insurgency is not progressing," Casey said.

Instead of gaining strength, insurgents in Iraq have changed tactics, he explained, to employ "more violent, more visible" attacks on softer civilian targets. That is "a no-win strategy for the insurgents," Casey said.

The general noted that U.S. military members continue to train and team up with Iraqi units in conducting sweeps and other security missions.

Khalilzad agreed with Rumsfeld's earlier stated belief that the Iraqi government needs to be more assertive about border issues with countries like Syria and Iran.

"They need to be more aggressive," Khalilzad said, noting the Syrians and the Iranians haven't been very helpful in preventing insurgents from entering Iraq from their side of the border. But Iraq soon will become an important country in the region, Khalilzad said, and likely will remember which countries had been helpful to it at this stage of its history.



U.S. Army Gen. George W. Casey, commander, Multi-National Force - Iraq, talks with the media as U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld observes during his visit to Iraq July 27.

Photo by U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Scott Allen

**"Self-confidence is the first requisite to great undertakings." Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784)**



# Secretary praises service members and ISF

**By Gerry J. Gilmore**

American Forces Press Service

BALAD, Iraq – Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld saluted Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen serving in Iraq and around the world during a town meeting here July 27.

Rumsfeld arrived in Baghdad this morning for an operational update from senior U.S. commanders as well as top Iraqi government and military leaders.

"Thanks to you, the terrorists are far from achieving their goals" in Iraq and Afghanistan, the secretary told about 500 U.S. service members gathered comfortably for the town hall meeting in a building insulated from Iraq's blast-furnace-like July heat.

The deadline for drafting a new Iraqi constitution is Aug. 15, Rumsfeld said, noting that he believes terrorist attacks in Iraq may increase between now and September, when the constitution is voted on, and in October, when new elections are held. In coming weeks and months, terrorists may increase their attacks and try to make life more difficult for American troops serving in Iraq and for Iraqi citizens, Rumsfeld said. Yet, American service members know they are performing a noble mission in Iraq and Afghanistan "that will benefit future generations of Americans to be sure," he added.

Tactics such as using suicide bombers indicate "a sign of weakness" and desperation on the part of terrorists, Rumsfeld said. And terrorist leaders, he noted, simply offer death to their followers. Terrorists hate peace and democracy, and they must be confronted and defeated, Rumsfeld said.

Earlier in the day, Rumsfeld watched Iraqi Special Forces troops undergo anti-terrorism training at a site near Baghdad International Airport. The Iraqis blew down doors and then charged into darkened rooms to engage shadowy targets.

Rumsfeld, accompanied by Iraqi Defense Minister Sadoun al-Dulaymi, Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq, and other senior U.S. and Iraqi officials, addressed the Iraqi commandos and praised their courage and expertise. Through their efforts and those of U.S. and Coalition forces, the terrorists will fail, Rumsfeld told them.

One service member at the town hall asked Rumsfeld how to convince the U.S. public that America needs to remain committed to battling terrorists in Iraq and elsewhere.

"You are making progress," Rumsfeld told the gathered troops, noting that increased pressure is being put on terrorist networks worldwide. Yet, terrorists can attack at any time, the secretary pointed out.

That's why "our task is to go after them," Rumsfeld said, "wherever they are."



## Secretary praises ISF courage during Iraq visit

Donald H. Rumsfeld, U.S. Secretary of Defense, visited an Iraqi Special Operations Force training site near Baghdad International Airport July 27. U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq, Iraqi Defense Minister Sadoun al-Dulaymi, and numerous media representatives accompanied the Secretary of Defense during the event. Secretary Rumsfeld praised the efforts of Iraqi Security Forces as he spoke to an ISOF and commando unit. He thanked the Iraqi soldiers for a fine demonstration and noted that many "are watching [ISF] progress with great interest." Secretary Rumsfeld expressed his sincere gratitude to the troops for being on the front lines against extremists and terrorism. "You are engaged in a tough fight, but it is clear you have a tough force and will prevail," said Rumsfeld. "All of you have shown personal courage. We are proud to have our forces fighting by your side."

Photos by U.S. Army Capt. Larry George



# Iraqi, U.S. Army officers conduct command post training

By U.S. Army Spc. Brian P. Henretta

Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Iraqi Army officers and command staff, who will soon be responsible for sectors within Baghdad, are now a step closer to achieving their goal.

About 50 officers from the 6th Iraqi Army Division and an additional 20 from their 5th Brigade participated in a three-day command post exercise that ended July 13. The CPX was designed to train the officers how to run an organized tactical operations center.

The exercise put the Iraqi officers in various scenarios they will encounter in future real-world missions. Their instructors, the 3rd Infantry Division Military Transition Team, presented situations that dealt with improvised explosive devices, vehicle-borne IEDs, prison breaks and public demonstrations, said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Willie J. Smith, Tactical Operation Center operations sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Inf. Div.

"The end state is to get them to operate within the 3rd Infantry Division's staff while maintaining their own identity," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Brian Duemling, a Coalition Military Assistance Training Team member with the 3rd Inf. Div.



Officers in the 6th Iraqi Army Division monitor simulated troop movement in the tactical operations center during a command post exercise July 12.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Brian P. Henretta

Another significant portion of the exercise was demonstrating how to set up a TOC.

"We used both Iraqi and U.S. equipment and gave them a model," Duemling

said. "Theirs is similar to ours, with a few changes, but they were very receptive and eager to listen to suggestions we made."

They learned to set up according to a standard layout, and how to install and use communications equipment, maps and graphics. From there, they began to process and react to information given to them by deploying the necessary Soldiers and communicating the information to higher or lower levels, said Smith.

It was a realistic look at what to expect when an event occurs, and military officials said they gain confidence every time they train.

The CPX scenario also included prisoner care and abuse, laws of war and training with members of the media to get them used to releasing information to the public, said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Glenn Kapiloff, a Coalition Military Assistance Training Team member with the 3rd Inf. Div.

"These guys never knew what G-5 (Civil Affairs) was. They didn't have anything like that in their old Army, so it's good to give them experience dealing with the media and the public," said Kapiloff.

The instructors were especially challenged by the more experienced officers, said Kapiloff.

"The colonels and other experienced officers had to learn to break old habits," said Duemling. "Under Saddam's army, there was no questioning anything. There was one way to do things and you followed orders. We are teaching them that our Coalition is successful because we think outside the box, and come up with creative solutions to problems."

The trainers showed them how to implement after action reviews; a practice unheard of in the old Iraqi Army. "It was hard at first to get them to discuss shortcomings," said Kapiloff.

Despite their initial hesitation, the Iraqis showed significant growth in their ability to critique themselves. Now they talk freely about what they did well, what mistakes were made, and what they can do to prevent those errors in the future, said Duemling.

The CPX was merely the latest step for this group of Iraqis of the 6th Army Div. The unit was assembled earlier this year, and has come a long way since their first days, their U.S. counterparts said. The U.S. advisers enjoy working with the Iraqi officers and are thrilled at the progress they have made since arriving.

"When these guys showed up in February, they showed up in civilian clothes, from various backgrounds, and no one really knew each other. Now they work as a cohesive unit," said Kapiloff.

The Iraqi 6th Army Division is now preparing to be activated and begin their responsibilities around Baghdad. Their future missions include patrols in the city, including assisting the U.S. Army in patrolling the International Zone, said Iraqi Lt. Col. Saber Alobaidy, 5th Brigade public affairs officer.

"Our Soldiers and officers are ready to do the mission. Our unit is a good unit, and we will honor our division," said Saber. "We want to help the people of our country be safe, and we thank our instructors for helping us get ready."

See 'CPX'

Page 5



---

## CPX

From page 4

---

Mutual respect was the key to connecting with the Iraqi officers. This wasn't easy at first, but the persistence of the instructors paid off. This is demonstrated by how far along the Iraqis have come since the beginning, said Duemling.



A captain from the 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division briefs an Iraqi major during a command post exercise July 12.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Brian P. Henretta

"If you can earn their respect like we have been able to do, they will try to do everything for you," said Duemling.

The instructors gained the Iraqis' respect by treating them as equals, talking to them on a personal level and showing that they genuinely care about them and their country's future, said Duemling. This group knows the Americans are sincere and trying to help them, added Kapiloff.

"After we get them to trust and open up to us, we learn a lot from them," Duemling added.

"One of the most insightful ideas came from a colonel who said the key to the Iraqis' success was putting the right people in the right leadership positions," said Duemling. "It seems like a simple statement, but it really means a lot. He didn't just mean putting experienced officers into a position; he was referring to people of good character."

Good character is something exemplified by the Iraqi officers. Kapiloff said these are the right officers in the right positions.

As such, this training exercise brings these Iraqi officers one step closer to the leadership roles that will help the 6th Army Division assume its future responsibilities.

---

# Joint Staff College trainers prepared after graduation

---

**By Iceland Maj. Borkur Gunnarsson**

NTM-I Public Affairs Office

---

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The initial group of Iraqi instructors that will conduct the training in the nearly formed Joint Staff College for the Iraqi Armed Forces graduated from a train-the-trainer course at the NATO Annex building in the Green Zone July 25.

Twenty-four specifically selected Iraqi instructors, nine Iraqi Colonels and 15 Lieutenant Colonels, have studied intensely for the past 15 weeks in an extensive course provided by NATO instructors. These 24 Iraqi instructors are now prepared to lead the instruction at the Joint Staff College that the Iraqi Armed Forces will open in Ar Rustamiyah in September.

The train-the-trainer course, which began April 15, has been exclusively tailored to meet Iraqi requirements. A team of 12 from the NATO Training Mission in Iraq worked for nine weeks to write the course, and based the curriculum on the detailed needs of the Iraqis.

The course includes over 300 hours of lectures and 120 hours of practical exercises. The course was divided into five modules to include: international relations, security and political organizations; national policy, security and eco-

nomic organizations; cooperation in security issues; judicial aspects of international and national military operations; sociology and leadership aspects; and operations of war, military decision making and staff work.

A high level Iraqi committee from both the Ministry of Defense and the Joint Headquarters carefully selected the 24 instructors from a large group of applicants. In order to be eligible for the course, specific prerequisite qualities were necessary to include: proven instructional abilities; understanding of democratic principles; the desire to instruct at the Joint Staff College; proficiency of English or another language as a second language; and possession of an advanced degree.

The graduate instructors will continue to prepare for the junior and senior courses that will commence in September. The junior course will be conducted for five-and-a-half months and the senior course is scheduled for nine-and-a-half months. NATO will continue to provide assistance and advisers to the Joint Staff College instructor team.

Student selection for the courses is already underway and selection tests have been conducted in Mosul, Irbil, Baghdad and Basra. Applications for both courses have already exceeded the limited amount of spaces that are available in these initial courses. The selection council's final nominations will be concluded by mid-August.

# Platoon evaluations prepare Al Karar Brigade

**By U.S. Army Maj. Michael L. Eller**

3rd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division MiTT Adviser

SOUTHEAST, Iraq – The 3rd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, also known as the Al Karar Brigade, recently completed its first iteration of infantry platoon evaluations.

The Military Transition Team scheduled the platoon evaluations as part of the Iraqi brigade's quarterly training guidance in June. In preparation for the evaluations, the U.S. MiTT's intelligence and operations advisory sections selected three tasks from the published platoon mission essential task list – deliberate traffic control point, conduct a platoon defense, and enter and clear a building.

Due to the current operational mission requirements, Iraqi infantry platoons from each of the three battalions will be evaluated over a six week period with the evaluations occurring every other week. At the end of the evaluation, each Iraqi Army battalion commander will have an objective assessment of his platoon's capabilities as well as a baseline for planning future training. Training deficiencies will be identified as well as those collective tasks and individual tasks that should be sustained.

For this first set of evaluations, the U.S. MiTT planned and led the platoon evaluations with the assistance of Iraqi Army noncommissioned officers from the Al Karar brigade.

"We wanted to provide the brigade with a template for conducting unit evaluations. In the future, we expect the brigade to issue the evaluated METL tasks in the quarterly training guidance and battalions to plan and conduct their



An Iraqi platoon leader issues instructions to his squad leaders prior to entering a building during platoon evaluations.

Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Michael Eller

in the future, "the brigade should focus on developing an infantry company evaluation program as well as a program to evaluate specialty platoons in each battalion such as the reconnaissance platoons."



U.S. Army Master Sgt. Kenneth Thompson, G2/G3 noncommissioned officer-in-charge, MiTT adviser, issues an operations order to Iraqi platoon leaders during platoon evaluations.

Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Michael Eller

During a battalion's scheduled evaluation week, three platoons are randomly selected and alerted each evening. The platoons are instructed to meet at the exercise control point the next morning, when a MiTT non-commissioned officer issues each platoon leader an operations order.

The platoon leader is required to conduct his planning and then navigate his platoon to and through the appropriate evaluation site. After completing the METL evaluation, platoons return to the exercise control point and receive a new mission with instructions.

Each platoon has two-and-a-half hours to complete the METL task and the time starts when the operations order is issued. At each evaluation site, the platoon is presented with opposing forces' scenarios similar to those experienced on actual operations. Evaluators assess performance in planning, movement, site preparation, leader and soldier tasks, and reaction to enemy contact.

"They are doing a good job leading their platoons through the evaluations, said Iraqi Col. Rahman, commander, Al Karar Brigade, after visiting the evaluation sites. "This is a great learning experience for them."

"When we turn over advisory responsibility to the next MiTT, we want to provide that team with an objective baseline analysis of platoon capabilities," said Christian. "This will help focus their efforts on critical training areas within each battalion."

Over the past six months, the Al Karar Brigade has gained operational experience in conducting company, battalion, and brigade level missions.



# Iraqi Army company moves closer to independent operations

**By U.S. Army Maj. Sean E. Wilson**  
27th Public Affairs Detachment

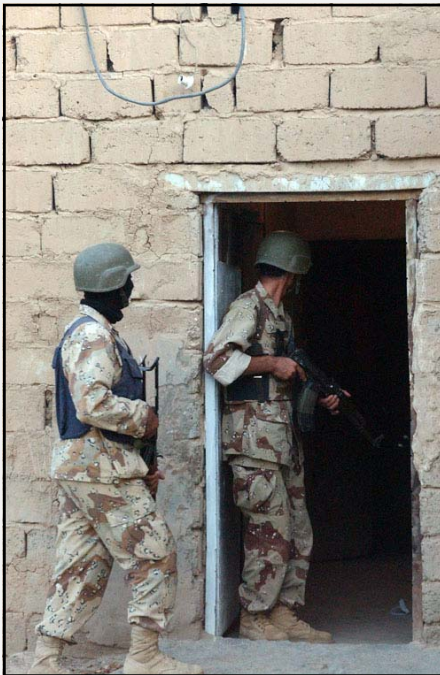
BALAD, Iraq – The key to a self-sustaining Iraqi democracy is a strong and capable security force. An Iraqi Army company is one step closer to achieving this goal as it completed a recent mission in an Iraqi village just south of Balad July 20.

Soldiers of Company A, 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division conducted a joint cordon



Iraqi soldiers enter an Iraqi village near the town of Salaman to search for contraband items and possible insurgent activity after securing the village perimeter in the early pre-dawn light July 20.

Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Sean E. Wilson



Iraqi soldiers entering and clearing a house prior to conducting a thorough search.

Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Sean E. Wilson

performing independent operations,” said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Christian Knutzen, Task Force Konohiki.

The Iraqi soldiers secured the town and conducted a systematic search of its buildings in the early, pre-dawn light. They conducted a house-to-house search looking for contraband items and possible insurgent activity. As the Iraqi soldiers were searching the town, security elements of the company and its Coalition allies maintained security around the perimeter to ensure the soldiers were protected while they were conducting the operation.

and search mission near the town of Salaman.

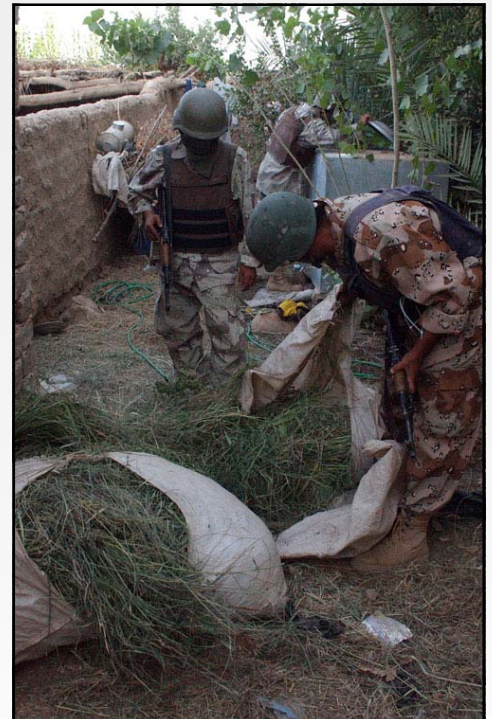
These troops conducted the mission with limited support from the military transition team of Task Force Konohiki from the 29th Brigade Combat Team and Task Force 1-128 from Forward Operating Base O’Ryan. This was an Iraqi-led and executed mission which incorporated coalition planning support.

“As they complete this mission as a company, they will be on the road to

The Iraqi soldiers’ efforts were rewarded as they arrested two suspects that were caught with suspected improvised explosive device materials. The searches also netted various contraband items to include a light machinegun, and unauthorized ammunition.

The Iraqi company has been conducting diligent and rigorous training alongside the military transition team to get to this point. They have been trained and certified to operate at the squad and platoon level. What made this operation unique was that this was the first time they incorporated company level command and control to manage simultaneous platoon operations.

“They have (already progressed by) leaps and bounds,” said U.S. Army Capt. Paul Shannon, a company adviser, Troop K, 3-278th Regimental Combat Team. “Five months ago they wouldn’t have been able to do this.”



Iraqi soldiers sift through hay bales outside an Iraqi household looking for hidden contraband items in a village near Salaman July 20.

Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Sean E. Wilson



# Youngest colonel in Iraqi Army has 15 years' fighting experience

**By Thibault Malterre**

Reprinted courtesy of Agence France - Presse

BAQUBAH, Iraq – The youngest colonel in Iraq's revamped Army is a slim, grizzled veteran who already has 15 years of combat experience.

Iraqi Col. Saman Talabani, 37, gained his combat experience as a Kurdish peshmerga fighter battling the forces of ousted Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

But Talabani, who says he is a nephew of Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, doesn't see himself as a Kurdish soldier, and doesn't care for the ethnic or religious identification of his soldiers.



Colonel Saman Talabani, a 37-year-old Kurd, the youngest colonel in the Iraqi Army, talks on his radio during a joint raid operation by Coalition - Iraqi forces in Baqubah.

Photo by AFP/Liu Jin

and Talabani said he is grateful for U.S. support.

U.S. officials say building the Iraqi Army is key to allowing the United States to draw down its 136,000 soldiers currently in the country.

Talabani belongs not to President Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan but to a rival political faction, the Kurdistan Democratic Party headed by Massoud Barzani.

However, Talabani said he fights for Iraq, not for Kurdish independence, showing off a sticker on his office armoire that reads in Arabic: "I love Iraq."

He speaks fluent English and received an advanced degree from the Australian military academy last year.



Colonel Saman Talabani (center) patrols with his soldiers in May 2005. Talabani, the youngest colonel in Iraq's revamped Army, is a slim, grizzled veteran who already has 15 years of combat experience.

Photo by AFP/Marwan Naamani

While in Australia he said he was sometimes asked by foreign students how he could collaborate with the Americans, so he burned a CD with photos of Saddam's crimes to show them the horrors of his regime.

For Iraq, "I want a new Army, like any Army," he said. "An army used to help people, to defend the country, not for invading another country," he added.

Talabani believes a small, well-trained and well-equipped Army working with allies is more efficient than the enormous Army Saddam recruited.

In any case "after the war against terror ends, we will need more workers, not more soldiers," he said.

Talabani's brigade of 3,000 men is known as the "Desert Lions." Its hunting grounds include the restive province of Diyala, population 1.8 million.

Diyala is located some 400 kilometers (250 miles) south of his native town of Arbil, one of the main cities in the semi-autonomous Kurdish region.

Iraq's Army, grossly under-equipped compared with the U.S. military, is constantly targeted by insurgents. But it takes a lot to frighten someone like Talabani, who is married and has a young son.

Since the creation of the autonomous Kurdish area in northern Iraq in 1991, Talabani has fought Saddam's Army, Islamic extremist groups and even the Kurdistan Workers' Party, a leftist Kurdish underground group active in Turkey.

"We are ready to die. We all die someday, so it is better to be doing something good," he said. "We are going to win because we do the right thing. The wrong has a very short life," he said. "Time is on our side," he added.



# MNSTC-I commander nominated for Leavenworth command

**By U.S. Army Capt. Larry George**

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – A U.S. Department of Defense news release announced July 22 that Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus,



Lt. Gen. Petraeus

commander, Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq, has been nominated by the President for reappointment to the grade of lieutenant general and will become the commanding general, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

In his new position, Petraeus will be in charge of the Combined Arms Center. The four mission areas of the CAC are leader development, Army doctrine, collective training, and battle command. CAC has four major subordinate organizations to accomplish the tasks of these mission areas - the Command and General Staff College, the Combined Arms

Doctrine Directorate, the Combined Arms Center - Training, and the Training and Doctrine Command Program Integration Office - Battle Command.

Petraeus also commanded the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell, Fort Campbell, Ky. from July 2002 to May 2004. During Operation Iraqi Freedom I, he led the division from Kuwait to the Mosul area in combat and security operations.

Nominated to replace Petraeus is Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, who was nominated for promotion to lieutenant general, the Pentagon release said. Dempsey relinquished command of America's Tank Division on Minue Field at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany July 27.

Dempsey, as the commander, First Armored Division, spent a 15 month tour of duty providing combat and security operations in the Baghdad area before redeploying his division to Germany July 4, 2004.



Maj. Gen. Dempsey



## Did you know?

### Iraq – The Ottoman Period (1534-1918)

The rapid deterioration of settled agriculture led to the growth of tribally based pastoral nomadism. By the end of the Mongol period, the focus of Iraqi history had shifted from the urban-based Abbasid culture to the tribes of the river valleys, where it would remain until well into the twentieth century.

From the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries, the course of Iraqi history was affected by the continuing conflicts between the Safavid Empire in Iran and the Ottoman Turks. The Safavids, who were the first to declare Shi'a Islam the official religion of Iran, sought to control Iraq both because of the Shi'a holy places at An Najaf and Karbala and because Baghdad, the seat of the old Abbasid Empire, had great symbolic value. The Ottomans, fearing that Shi'a Islam would spread to Anatolia (Asia Minor), sought to maintain Iraq as a Sunni-controlled buffer state.

In 1908 a new ruling clique, the Young Turks (Turkia Al-Fata), took power in Istanbul. The Young Turks aimed at making the Ottoman Empire a unified nation-state based on Western models. They stressed secular politics and patriotism over the pan-Islamic ideology. After nearly 400 years under Ottoman rule, Iraq was ill prepared to form a nation-state. The Ottomans had failed to control Iraq's rebellious tribal domains and even in the cities their authority was tenuous. The Ottomans' inability to provide security led to the growth of autonomous, self-contained communities. As a result, Iraq entered the twentieth century beset by a complex web of social conflicts that seriously impeded the process of building a modern state.

- Information provided by [http://arabic-media.com/iraq\\_history.htm](http://arabic-media.com/iraq_history.htm)

# Construction is reminder of Iraq's progress past obstacles

By Joseph Giordono

Stars and Stripes, Mideast edition, July 25, 2005

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The young Iraqi man, face and head covered by a checkered scarf, perched on his haunches in the dark, half-finished hallway of a military barracks and sprinkled handfuls of cement mix into a metal tub of water. As he gave a thumbs-up sign with his other hand, he said two words: "Work. Good." Then, flipping his hand over and pointing his thumb at the dirt floor, he said two words more: "Security. Bad."

In a nutshell, that is the story of reconstruction efforts in Iraq. While some \$18 billion has been allocated to more than 2,600 projects, the continuing violence in the country both overshadows the work and puts Iraqis in a tough situation. If they take a job to help rebuild their country, they risk violence from insurgents.

Two projects near Baghdad are illustrative of the progress. One is an Iraqi special forces barracks being built in a dusty corner of the U.S. military's sprawling Camp Liberty. The other is the Qudas electric power generating station about 20 miles north of Baghdad.

The barracks project employs some 200 Iraqi laborers and is run by a local contractor. That man, who asked that his name not be used, had worked on several projects for the Marines in Anbar province. Insurgents threatened his family, so he moved them to Jordan.

"When this is all over. Who knows, maybe two years," he says when asked when his family could return.

When done, the barracks will provide modern facilities for Iraqi troops, who are the cornerstone of the U.S. exit strategy in Iraq. There are some 900 projects in the "security and justice" sector of the Iraq Reconstruction Program.

Tom Semotuk, an Army Corps of Engineers supervisor on the project and contractor back home in Kansas City, like many of the Corps employees, volunteered to come here. And he's staying past his original contract.

"I wanted to make sure this got finished," he said, waving a hand toward the construction. "For me, it's win-win all around."



An Iraqi laborer mixes cement at the future special forces barracks.

Stars and Stripes photo by Joseph Giordono

The Qudas plant could help solve one of the most pressing problems for Iraqis - providing a constant flow of power. Once work is completed, the Qudas plant alone could in-

crease Iraq's electrical production by more than 10 percent.

"That is a significant contribution. It's one of the larger gas turbine power plants in Iraq," Dennis Karns, electricity program manager with the U.S. Project and Contracting Office, said in a written response to questions.

Once operational, he said, the plant could provide power to nearly a half-million homes. The \$2.1 million project employs some 100 Iraqis, and repairs are 85 percent complete.

Before the war, Iraq was producing 4,400 megawatts of electricity per day. On most days now, it produces 4,700 megawatts. But demand is still outstripping supply, so electricity has become a major gripe for Iraqis, sweltering through the summer.

To compound problems, there is no Iraqi billing system for service, so no incentive for people to limit their usage. In many areas, utility repairs were used as leverage by Saddam Hussein: To either reward or control certain population groups, some regions would be kept fully supplied. In some areas, like Ramadi, residents still lament to U.S. soldiers that, under Saddam, at least the power or water would be fixed the next day.

U.S. officials say that whether or not that is true, the reality is that 35 years of neglect and more than two years of conflict left Iraq's infrastructure damaged.

U.S. Army Col. Frank Kosich, deputy commander of the Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region District, noted the disparity of projects and their impact.

At one end of the spectrum, a well can be dug in a village to supply a few hundred people with fresh water. They will see the benefits immediately.

However, right down the road is a water treatment plant that nobody knows about, but provides clean water for hundreds of thousands.

"There's the well, which everyone in the village can see. And there's the plant, sitting alone, drawing no curiosity and no visitors, but supplying water to 600,000 people," Kosich said.

"Which would you rather have? You have to do both. You can't do one or the other."



Iraqi workers lay stone tile for what will become the floor of an Iraqi special forces barracks near Baghdad.

Stars and Stripes photo by Joseph Giordono



# Iraqi soldiers receive new radio and equipment training

**By U.S. Army Capt. Joe Burkhart**  
CMATT Liaison Officer

TAJI, Iraq – Military soldiers and sailors from the Iraqi Army, Navy, Ministry of Defense and Joint Headquarters received a week of intense training on the Harris RF5800H multi-band radio system at Taji Military Training Base beginning July 18.

Twenty-four Iraqi students and their Coalition advisers attended the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq course designed as a “train-the-trainer” module for communications and command and control functions. The instruction and practical hands-on exercises familiarized the new tactical radio system to key signal personnel in order to improve their capability to send encrypted voice and data communications between the

various Iraqi headquarters.

The students initially learned to program the radio manually, but quickly progressed to utilizing a computer-based program to write more complex radio plans over the course of the



Iraqi students learned functions of the multi-band radio system through classroom instruction and hands-on training. U.S. Army photo

seven-day curriculum. The students also learned about sending e-mails and other essential data over the system once they mastered the voice capabilities of the radio.



U.S. Army Capt. Joe Burkhart demonstrates the proper assembly of the radio system to Iraqi students. U.S. Army photo

The class instruction began using an instant messenger type program to initially send messages back and forth. The class progressed to a more robust, wireless messenger terminal program, which allowed the students to send Microsoft Outlook e-mail “over the air” to another high-frequency radio using the same program.

When the students were asked what they thought of the course, the general consensus was that they enjoyed the hands-on approach to learning the automatic link establishment and the ability to send and receive secure e-mail over a radio link.

At the completion of the course, all of the students were fully trained to install the 400-watt base station, program the radios, erect an HF antenna, and send and receive e-mails and files between stations. The Iraqi students and their advisers returned to their respective duty locations with the radios they trained on to begin using their new communication tool in operational situations. The new radio system will greatly improve Iraqi command and control for Iraqi Security Forces.

## Iraqi Commandos force car bomb to detonate early

**Story and photo by 4th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office**

Iraqi Commandos fired on a vehicle at a Baghdad checkpoint near a Ministry of the Interior compound when the vehicle failed to slow, forcing the explosive-laden vehicle to explode at about 8:30 a.m. July 25.

Two Iraqi Commandos were killed in the attack, nine were wounded and three civilians were wounded.

“It’s unclear whether the compound or the checkpoint was his intended target, but either way he failed to reach his target and killed himself,” said U.S. Army Maj. Alayne Conway, public affairs officer, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd U.S. Infantry Division.

“The Commandos were protecting their own people,” Conway said. “The Iraqi emergency services responded quickly to the scene, and thanks to their quick response and hard work, the casualties were evacuated quickly.”



# Landmark meetings between Iraqi and civil affairs officials

**By U.S. Army Sgt. David Bill**

48th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office

BAGHDAD, Iraq – In a small conference room in Baghdad, they came together for the first time to discuss the future of Iraq. Local Iraqi and 48th Brigade Combat Team Civil Affairs Team leaders began meeting to discuss how to improve the quality of life for the local Iraqi populace in the Al Rasheed area south of Baghdad.

These meetings will pave the way for democratic discussions. The meetings also help develop a priority list of civil-military projects to repair or construct, such as water treatment plants, irrigation facilities, and road repairs.

"We came with the purpose to do project work," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Scott Carter, Civil Affairs Officer, 48th Brigade Combat Team, Savannah, Ga. Carter is responsible for helping to develop civil engineering projects that improve the standard of living for Iraqis.

"This is the way to democracy," he said during his first meeting with Iraqi officials.

"We have identified some smaller projects in the area," said U.S. Army Capt. Joe Lynch, senior project manager, 48th BCT, from Sugar Hill, Ga. "But we want you (the leaders) to prioritize what projects you want to accomplish."

The initial projects offer the Iraqi leaders an opportunity to get local contractors to the table to bid on the work. Local people can see progress and participate as the labor force for the projects.

"We are starting with small projects and will move into larger scale projects in the future." Lynch told the assembled leaders.

"We don't want false promises from Coalition forces," said one local leader through an interpreter.

"I will not speak in flowery terms," Carter responded. "The promises we make are the promises we will keep."

The first meeting allowed these local leaders to understand what will be expected as well as to start an open line of communication. "In the future we will not be here and local leaders will have to identify projects that need to be done," Carter said.

Lynch identified two water projects that were complete and need only to be certified to begin operations.

Local contractors were brought to the next meeting which was a "bidder's conference" and allowed contractors to review the five initial projects presented by the Civil Affairs team, with the expected bids to be presented soon.

The first meeting went well with the Iraqis presenting requests of the civil affairs team which included issues of security within the region.

"The more the security improves, the more projects we can do." Carter told the concerned Iraqi citizens.

Carter was also able to meet with high-level officials who were very receptive to the meeting.

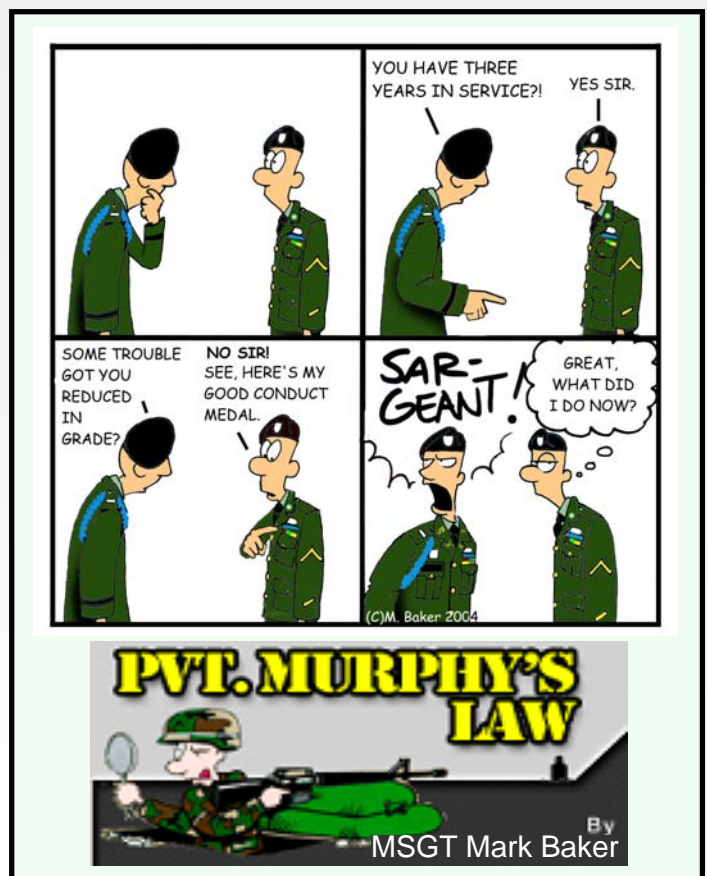


Local Iraqi officials meet with the civil affairs officers from the 48th Brigade Combat Team to establish a priority of civil engineering projects in the southern Baghdad area.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. David Bill

The desired outcome is that these local officials who initially would not talk with each other about anything, will soon develop a trust, which will allow them to build towards the same result - democracy for Iraq.

"Would this meeting have happened five years ago?" Carter asked the group who collectively shook their heads, no.





# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Iraqi police, Coalition forces crack down on terrorists

BAGHDAD – Iraqi police officers and Task Force Baghdad Soldiers responded to terrorist attacks by killing four anti-Iraqi forces, wounding three, and capturing nine of the attackers during combat operations in Baghdad July 23.

At 4 p.m., Iraqi police manning a checkpoint in south Baghdad came under small-arms fire. The police stormed the house and killed all four attackers.

Earlier, at 4:25 a.m., U.S. forces searching houses in southwest Baghdad found two improvised explosive devices attached to the front door of one of the homes. The Soldiers cordoned off the house and called in an explosives team to examine the bombs. Once the team disabled the bombs, the unit entered the house and found a dead terrorist wearing a suicide vest that had apparently detonated by mistake. (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)

## Iraqi Army and Coalition forces stop suspected IED team

HIT – Iraqi Army and Coalition forces observed two suspicious men digging on the side of the road and engaged them with small arms fire July 23, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Iraqi Intervention Force and elements from the 3/25 U.S. Marines fired on the two men wounding one man in the arm and leg. The other man was taken into custody for questioning. The wounded man was transported to a nearby facility for medical treatment.

Elsewhere, Iraqi police discovered an improvised explosive device in Baqubah consisting of three 125 mm projectiles. An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team cleared the site.

## Iraqi Army patrols locate weapons

TUZ – Iraqi Army soldiers on patrol discovered a weapons cache here July 23, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers with 3-2 IA

found nine Russian 122 mm high explosive artillery rounds. The munitions were taken to a nearby forward operating base where they were turned over to an explosive ordnance disposal team.

Elsewhere, IA soldiers conducted a cordon and knock with elements of the 1/163 U.S. Infantry near Hawija where they detained one suspected insurgent and confiscated one light machine gun and a pair of night vision goggles.

No injuries or damages were reported in either operation.

## Joint raid captures 12 and disrupts car bombing operations

TIKRIT – Iraqi police and Coalition forces executed a joint cordon and search July 24 in an area two kilometers northwest of Tikrit in an effort to capture anti-Iraq forces responsible for financing and manufacturing vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, according to a multinational forces report.

Iraqi police and elements of U.S. Task Force 2-7 detained 12 suspected AIF members and confiscated one submachine gun, 13 fuses, and two 57 mm air defense artillery rounds. An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team destroyed the rounds and fuses on site.



## Iraqi Prime Minister visits ISF training

Ibrahim al-Jaafari, Iraqi Prime Minister, along with Sadoun al-Dulaymi, Iraqi Minister of Defense, visited Iraqi Security Forces training sites in the capital city July 25. Jaafari discusses training with a captain from the Iraqi National Emergency Response Unit (top left) at Camp Dublin near Baghdad International Airport. An Iraqi student participating in commando school training provides security during a building seizure training exercise (top right). Students of the commando school, in day 19 of the training course, scale a two-story wall without a ladder (right) during a building clearing exercise observed by both the Iraqi Prime Minister and Minister of Defense.

Photos by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Fred Wellman



# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Iraqi "tip line" leads to capture of suspected insurgent

HIT – While on patrol through a local marketplace July 24, an Iraqi Army soldier recognized a suspected insurgent based upon information obtained via a "tip line" established by Iraqi Security Force officials, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Iraqi Intervention Force detained a man matching the description provided in the tip report. Soldiers questioned the man and found him to be deceptive. He was transported to a nearby base for processing and further questioning.

Elsewhere, Iraqi and Coalition Soldiers with 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Iraqi Army Division and 1-24th U.S. Infantry conducted a joint raid on three targeted areas in Mosul. The raid resulted in the capture of four suspected insurgents. All four individuals were transported to a Coalition facility for further questioning. No injuries or damages were reported in either operation.

## ISF assist bomb attack victims

BAGHDAD – Iraqi police, soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division and U.S. Soldiers responded to a suicide car bomb attack at 6:08 a.m. July 25 targeting Iraqis reporting for work at a U.S. military contractor's compound.

The attack killed 10 individuals and wounded 10 others. Two buildings were damaged and one was partially collapsed. The attack occurred near the compound located in the Rusafa district in east Baghdad.

Iraqi Security Forces and Task Force Baghdad Soldiers responded by securing the area and evacuating the injured to a hospital for treatment.

"We continue to witness the true face of terrorism – the wanton killing of innocent people," said U.S. Army Col. Joseph DiSalvo, commander, Coalition Forces in Rusafa (east Baghdad). "The Iraqi Security Forces are doing everything possible with respect to emergency response; actions involving casualties, recovery and debris cleanup."

The incident is under investigation. (2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)

## Iraqi police and bomb disposal teams battle IEDs

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Police Service officers throughout the country continue to respond effectively to the threat of improvised explosive devices, according to a multinational forces report dated July 25.

Iraqi police in Mansuriyah found an IED on a road consisting of two anti-tank rounds wired together and armed with a remote control initiation device. Police in Baqubah found and disposed of a 155 mm projectile. In Abayach, Iraqi police secured the area where one kilogram of TNT was found.

An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team assisted in clearing all three sites.

Iraqi, U.S. forces nab 11 suspects  
BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army soldiers, Iraqi police and Coalition forces captured 11 suspected terrorists and seized two rocket launchers in a series of combat operations carried out in Baghdad July 25.

Two early-morning cordon and search operations and one raid against terrorist cells operating in different areas of south Baghdad netted nine terror suspects and one wanted terrorist. Coalition forces also found two pistols, one shotgun, two rifles, one mortar case, a computer, numerous passports and anti-Coalition forces propaganda at the three locations.

Iraqi police and U.S. forces patrolling together in another area of central Baghdad investigated a report of a shooting near a hospital around midnight and spotted a man with an AK-47 assault rifle on the roof of a nearby house.

The man with the rifle fled, but the joint patrol searched the house and found two rocket launchers inside. When the Iraqi police talked to other residents in the neighborhood, the citizens told them two anti-Iraq forces drove up to the house, got out of the car, quickly fired three rockets and dropped the launchers at the house before driving off again.

No one was injured in the failed attack. (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)

## Iraqi, U.S. forces secure bus station after rocket attack

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces responded to a terrorist rocket attack which struck a bus station at 12:20 p.m. July 27 in central Baghdad.

The terrorist attack killed nine Iraqi citizens, wounded four others and damaged 24 vehicles in the area.

Iraqi police and Task Force Baghdad's 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division responded to the attack, cordoning the area and helping to evacuate the wounded to local hospitals. An explosive ordnance disposal team determined the 122-millimeter rocket struck the roof of the bus station and exploded on impact.

The bus station was temporarily closed as officials began cleaning up the site. The incident is under investigation. (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)



A 122-millimeter rocket struck the roof of a bus station in central Baghdad July 27.

Photo by U.S. Army



# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Hillah SWAT team engages enemy and captures 22 AIF

YUSAFIYAH – Iraqi SWAT team members, on a combined patrol with Coalition advisers, secured valuable intelligence from a local national leading to the capture of 22 suspected insurgents July 25.

The combined patrol was designed to enforce the Yusufiyah curfew. When Hillah SWAT team officers stopped a local national violating the established curfew, the Iraqi offered information about Egyptian bomb builders operating in the area in exchange for his freedom.

The SWAT team and Coalition advisers followed the informant's instructions and found three Egyptian males at the location. All three were detained for questioning.

As the patrol was leaving the area, an improvised explosive device exploded near the convoy, which initiated a small arms and rocket-propelled grenade ambush by anti-Iraq forces. The convoy returned fire against the attack killing an estimated four to five enemy combatants. There were no Iraqi or Coalition casualties reported.

The patrol resulted in the capture of 22 suspected insurgents including eight Egyptians.

## Iraqi police capture two AIF

MOSUL – Iraqi police officers battled anti-Iraq forces driving in a car near the Borsa Market July 25, according to a multinational forces report.

Iraqi police engaged two AIF shooters armed with two AK-47 assault rifles traveling in a Mazda. In the exchange of fire, the two AIF were wounded and were later transported to the Al Jamouri Hospital under guard.

Iraqi Police Service officials believe the same vehicle was involved in the attacks at the Pepsi factory on July 24.

## Five suspected AIF detained

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army and Coalition Soldiers conducted two joint cordon and searches for suspected anti-Iraq force operatives July 26 capturing two of their primary targets, according to a multinational forces report.

Elements of 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 6<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Army Division and 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions 156<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment detained the five suspects. No injuries or damages were reported.

## IEDs located by Iraqi Army

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army soldiers on patrol uncovered two separate improvised explosive device caches July 26, according to a multinational forces report.

Elements of the 4<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Army Division and U.S. Special Forces discovered five 107 mm rockets rigged as IEDs, two propane tanks also rigged as IEDs, one 120 mm mortar round, and various IED components along a road 30 kilometers southwest of Baiji. An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team cleared the site.

Elsewhere, Iraqi Army soldiers found three 152 mm artillery rounds with fuses five kilometers northeast of Dibilis.

The rounds were transported to a nearby forward operating base. No injuries or damages were reported.

## Search for known suspect yields two suspects in Mosul

MOSUL – Iraqi Army and Coalition soldiers conducted a combined cordon and search mission July 26 in an attempt to locate a known anti-Iraq force operative responsible for mortar attacks against Iraqi Police stations here, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Iraqi Army Division and Coalition advisers failed to locate the target suspect, but instead detained two other males who tested positive for explosive materials.

The soldiers searched the premises and found various uniforms, military documents, former regime propaganda, and other hand written documents.

No injuries or damages were reported.

## Public Order Brigade officers stop car bomber

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Public Order Brigade officers manning a traffic control checkpoint here shot and killed a car bomber July 27 before reaching his objective, according to a multinational forces report.

Officers with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Public Order Brigade managed to destroy a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device before it closed on their position in the Al Soweib area of Baghdad. Having identified the VBIED threat, officers fired their weapons killing the driver and causing an early detonation.

Despite the valiant efforts of the POB officers, three people were wounded in the explosion.

In other Public Order Brigade activity, elements of the 4<sup>th</sup> POB, 1/2 POB, and 3/2 POB conducted a cordon and search operation in the Al Dorah area resulting in the arrest of 58 suspected insurgents.

## Iraqi equipment roll-up

**A look at some of the equipment delivered to the Iraqi Security Forces July 20 — July 26**

<b>Ammunition.....</b>	<b>3,511,340 rounds</b>
<b>Weapons.....</b>	<b>5,787</b>
<b>Helmets.....</b>	<b>3,099</b>
<b>Body Armor.....</b>	<b>2,700</b>
<b>Vehicles.....</b>	<b>1,008</b>

— Information provided by MNSTC-I J-4

# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Iraqi Army soldiers find ordnance

TUZ – Iraqi Army soldiers on patrol located a collection of unexploded ordnance in a field 22 kilometers northwest of Tuz July 27, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers with 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Army Division found six Russian 122mm projectiles on the ground in the middle of a field. The ordnance appeared to have been exposed to the elements rather than having been cached. The munitions were transported to a forward operating base for disposal. No injuries were reported.

## Traffic stop nets two suspects, explosives and weapons

BAGHDAD – Iraqi police officers arrested two suspected insurgents and confiscated weapons and explosives July 27, according to a multinational forces report.

While conducting a routine traffic stop, Baghdad police officers found six hand grenades, night vision goggles, three AK-47 automatic rifles, and an undisclosed amount and type of explosives.

## Iraqi police capture one and kill one during exchange of fire

BAGHDAD – Iraqi police officers were attacked by two armed men driving a Nissan in the Al Askan District July 28, according to a multinational forces report.

One Iraqi police officer was wounded in the initial exchange of gunfire. Additional Iraqi police officers responded with small arms fire disabling the vehicle. One of the attackers was killed while the other suffered wounds.

Police confiscated one 9 mm pistol, two black masks, and eight fake Iraqi Army IDs.

The injured attacker later admitted that their mission was to kill police and Iraqi Army personnel.

## Iraqi police find SAMs and large cache of anti-aircraft rounds

TIKRIT – Iraqi police located a large cache of munitions eight kilometers southeast of Tikrit near Owja July 28, according to a multinational forces report.

The cache consisted of nine surface-to-air missiles, 11 57 mm anti-aircraft artillery rounds, 300 14.5 mm anti-aircraft artillery rounds, and 300 23 mm anti-aircraft artillery rounds. No injuries or damages were reported.

## Iraqi Army searches for AIF

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army and Coalition forces conducted a cordon and search for anti-Iraq forces operating in the area based upon information received from a civilian informant here July 28, according to a report.

Soldiers with 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 6<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Army Division and 2/156 U.S. Infantry Regiment were searching for two specific AIF targets. Both suspects were detained including eight additional suspects.

## Iraqi, U.S. Soldiers continue success in Operation Thundercat

CAMP TIGERLAND – Operation Thundercat continued July 27 as Iraqi and U.S. forces captured numerous detainees during a series of cordon and search missions in Baghdad.

The major success of the operation, which began July 24, belonged to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division and companies of 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment, 256th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd U.S. Infantry Division. At 6 a.m. July 27, the combined force searched a home in the west Abu Ghraib district of Baghdad, which resulted in the capture of seven suspects. Soldiers also confiscated a computer with terrorist information.

## Looking back

### One year ago in Iraq

Interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi on July 29, 2004, accepted an invitation from U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell to visit the White House soon and praised a Saudi plan to send Muslim troops to Iraq.

At a joint news conference, Allawi said the Saudi initiative would help unify Arab leaders against Islamic terrorism.

"I call upon the leaders of the Islamic countries and the Arab countries to close ranks because this is really, basically it's our fight," Allawi said. "Those [terrorists] are people who claim to be part of Islam, they are not. They claim to be part of the Arabs, they are not."

He said he "accepted with gratitude" an invitation from President Bush to visit the United States in the near future.

Under the proposed Saudi plan, any new Arab and Muslim troops would supplement Coalition troops, not replace them, but could reduce the need for so many troops as security is restored, according to a State Department official. The Saudi initiative would involve Muslim nations that do not border Iraq, meaning Saudi troops would not be included.

At the news conference, Powell said the United States welcomes the plan, but noted there are many unanswered questions regarding who would lead the force and what role they would play.



# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief



## Iraqi police graduate 238 from advanced training courses

BAGHDAD – The Iraqi Police Service graduated 238 police officers from advanced and specialty courses at the Adnan Training Facility July 28, as part of the Iraqi government's ongoing effort to train its security forces.

The courses consist of Basic Criminal Investigations with 58 graduates, Critical Incident Management with 31 graduates, Violent Crime Investigation with 34 graduates, Executive Leadership with 20 graduates, Mid-Level Management with 16 graduates, Advanced Criminal Investigation with 13 graduates, Criminal Intelligence with 37 graduates, and Interview and Interrogation with 29 graduates.

The Basic Criminal Investigation course covers topics such as theft, burglary, arson, robbery, sexual offenses, and homicide investigation. Participants also receive instruction and hands-on training in fingerprinting, photography, tool marks and plaster casting techniques. To date, 2,203 police officers have completed the Basic Criminal Investigations course. The Advanced Criminal Investigation course covers advanced evidence collection techniques and procedures.

Critical Incident Management is designed to provide participants with the understanding of and application skills for managing critical incidents. To date, 488 students have graduated from this course.

The Violent Crime Investigation course introduces participants to investigative techniques to be used in a variety of situations, but particularly in violent crimes including armed robbery, rape and murder. This course has graduated 509 students to date.

Executive Leadership covers executive level concepts of planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, reporting and budgeting. Other topics include visionary leadership, organizational values, interpersonal communication skills, motivational techniques and strategies, along with strategic planning. This course has graduated 291 students to date.

Mid-Level Management is a course designed for supervisors who are responsible for managing the first line supervisors and their assigned personnel. To date, 365 students have graduated this course.

The Criminal Intelligence course provides training in the planning, collection, analysis and distribution of intelli-

gence information. This course also equips participants with the ability to recognize trends that may have an impact on public safety and security.

The Interview and Interrogation course covers advanced interview and interrogation techniques and includes instruction on the preservation and protection of human rights, and the importance of ethical behavior during interviews and interrogations. To date, 527 students have completed this course.

Officers who participated in these courses previously completed either an eight-week basic training course for new recruits or a three-week 'transitional integration program' course designed for prior-service officers.

The police officers report back for continued duty at their respective stations immediately.

## Iraqi Army patrols detain suspected AIF members

MOSUL – Iraqi Army soldiers conducting a traffic control point detained suspected anti-Iraq forces here July 29, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division detained ten suspected insurgents. Five of the detainees attempted to escape. The detainees were transported to Al Kindi for further questioning.

Elsewhere, Iraqi Army soldiers detained six suspected AIF. Soldiers with 5th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division conducted a joint cordon and search in Baghdad with elements of 2nd/156th U.S. Infantry Regiment which resulted in the capture of six suspected AIF, five of which were targets.

In Al Batha, Iraqi Security Forces detained 27 suspected criminals and terrorists.

No major injuries or damages were reported during any of the operations cited above.

## Iraqi police arrest three AIF bombers

BAGHDAD – An Iraqi citizen stopped in the Mada'in Police Station to report that two suspects were seen placing an improvised explosive device near a roadway July 29, according to a multinational forces report.

Iraqi police officers followed the informant's instructions and arrived at the scene where they discovered an explosive charge and a detonator.

Meanwhile, officers assigned to the Karadah district were in pursuit of a suspected vehicle-borne improvised explosive device. Khansa police officers joined in the pursuit and succeeded in stopping the vehicle. Three suspects were arrested and unspecified explosives were found in their possession.

Police later determined that the three suspects are associated with a known terrorist group and were responsible for planting the IED intended for an attack against Coalition forces.

No injuries or damages were reported.